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greater popular regard, they doubtless would serve to give a warmer tone to our rather uncongenial nationality. In the background of our American character, we see plenty of sunlight playing, occasionally breaking through rifts in the clouds ever above us, and it needs but the genial influences of some central power of fun to call the sunlight in copiously. He will prove a true benefactor who, if he does not make laughter a science—as in the days of Louis Quinze—will make good nature and joking epidemic.

A toast to the memory of Charles Lamb, Sydney Smith, Thomas Hood, Douglas Jerrold!

### ORDERS OF CHIVALRY.

THE rage for decorations is like all other rages. It increases with age. When, by dint of labor, journeyings, prayers, and sometimes sacrifices, a man possessed by a mania for decorations has obtained his first bit of ribbon, he wants another, then another, then another still, until he has exhausted all the patterns of St. Etienne. Just as a merited decoration is honorable, so a decoration obtained by solicitations and importunity is ridiculous.

How much these bits of ribbon of foreign orders are worth, is known only to those who give and those who receive them. For many of the donors it makes an item in the receipts of their budget. For many others it is real economy. How many petty princes have created orders of chivalry simply for the sake of the fees to be paid by the decorated. These fees vary from 300 to 1,500 francs. But this is a trifle. In England, the fees paid by each knight of the Order of the Thistle amount to £348 sterling, or \$1,740; each knight of the Order of St. Patrick pays £175 sterling, or \$870; each Knight of the Bath, £283 sterling, or \$1,415.

There are in Europe one hundred and twenty-four orders of knighthood, properly so called. Beside these, there are three in Brazil, two in Turkey, and one in Persia. Beside the grand orders, there are in many countries inferior crosses and special insignia to the number of about one hundred and sixty. Lastly, there is a large number of medals, worn with a ribbon of the order, attached to the button-hole. Among these medals there are some highly prized. Such are those that

the emperor of Russia gives especially to merchants. When a merchant, after having obtained a first medal, obtains also a second, the latter is adorned with the emperor's cipher in diamonds.

Prussia has six orders of knighthood, and twelve secondary crosses. The grand duchy of Baden has three orders of knighthood, and two secondary crosses; Saxony, three orders of knighthood; Russia, ten; Denmark, two; Sweden, five; Wurtemberg, three; Bavaria, five; Austria, five for the empire, and four for the kingdom of Italy; Spain, eleven, beside sixty secondary crosses; the Two Sicilies, five; the Grand Duchy of Hesse, four; the Roman States, five, and one military cross; Hanover, two; Belgium, two, counting the iron cross; Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Saxe-Meiningen and Saxe-Altenburg, one between them; Brunswick, one; Saxe-Weimar, one; Holland, five; Portugal, six; France, one, and one military medal (the Revolution of July extinguished five orders); the Ionian Islands, one; Greece, two; England, four; Parma, one; Lucca, one; Nassau, three; Oldenburg, Anhalt-Bernburg, Anhalt-Coethen, and Anhalt-Desau, one among them; Brazil, three; Turkey, two; and Persia, one.

The first of the Prussian orders is that of the Black Eagle. When Frederick I., then only prince, established it, he named it the order of generosity. Those who receive it have the rank of lieutenant-general. The ribbon is orange, and the cross has four branches, enamelled in blue.

The order of military merit of Baden is hard to obtain. There is one excellent condition: the decoration is refused to any one that asks for it.

The two grand Russian orders are the order of St. Andrew, founded by Peter I., and distributed for the first time on occasion of the massacre of Strelitz, and the order of St. George. The order of St. Andrew gives the rank of lieutenant-general. The order of St. George is given only to one who has captured a vessel, a battery, or a difficult position. To obtain the first class, one must have gained a battle. Only two foreigners have received this order—Wellington and Blucher. The emperors Alexander I. and Nicholas only had the cross of the third class. The Russian order of St. Vladimir is given to savans and artists.

Russia has an order for women—the

order of St. Catherine, of which the Empress is the Grand Mistress, and which Peter the Great founded in honor of his wife's conduct at the battle of the Pruth. The decoration is in diamonds, supported by a red ribbon, and the motto, "For love and for the country." It is an exquisite ornament of the dress.

The king of Sweden has the order of Gustavus Vasa, for farmers.

Among the not easily obtainable are the four English orders of the Garter, the Bath, the Thistle, and St. Patrick; the Austrian order of Maria Teresa, the knights of which are named barons without fees, and may obtain an audience of the sovereign without the intervention of the chamberlain; the Lion of Dannebrog, in Denmark; and the Teutonic order in Prussia.

France used to have an order of the same nature, comprising all the others, and given, among foreigners, only to sovereigns: this was the order of the Holy Ghost. To obtain it, it was necessary to be noble. Nevertheless, there were certain exceptions. Thus, when the king asked the candidate, "Are you noble?" if he answered, "I am, and will prove it," the king said, "I give you a hundred years to prove it." Vauban would not lend himself to this rather harmless falsehood, and did not get the blue ribbon.

In Spain there is an order of women—the royal order of Queen Maria Louisa, created by Charles IV.—a blue and white ribbon, worn as a scarf, with an eight-pointed cross. Austria, also, has an order of women—the order of the Starry Cross, attached to the left side by a black ribbon. Spain has also another order of women. It is worn as a bracelet, but it is reserved for ladies who belonged to the Junta of Women in Cadiz, in the insurrection there.

The Emperor Don Pedro I. created in Brazil the order of the Rose. It was established on occasion of the Emperor's marriage to the princess Amelia of Leuchtenburg. Everything is rose-colored in this order: the ribbon, the six-pointed star surrounded with roses, the decoration of the grand dignitaries, represents a bouquet of roses: the grand cross is supported by a chain of enamelled roses. It is, moreover, not an order of gallantry, but of civil and military merit.

Those persons afflicted with a mania for decorations are referred to Spain, with its sixty crosses; to Bavaria, Saxony, &c.